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# *Agri-News*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Two Growing And Thriving Industries... Commercial Floriculture & Nursery Production**

The Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service will conduct the Commercial Floriculture Production and Commercial Nursery Production surveys at the beginning of 2001. Data collected for Tennessee will be combined with other States to help determine the status of these dynamic industries. Debra K. Kenerson, State Statistician, commented, "These surveys will track an industry which has more than doubled nationally from 1988 to 1998, with sales totaling \$10.6 billion for 1998. It is vital to record this growth so supporting industries and policy makers can provide necessary resources."

Ms. Kenerson went on to say, "These surveys will be used to produce reliable, accurate data on key items such as area of production, number sold, value of sales, production, and intended nursery sales." Leaders from the American Nursery and Landscape Association and the Society of American Florists encourage grower participation in these surveys, knowing it is crucial to have accurate information on the floriculture and nursery industries.

Complete, accurate, and timely reporting by growers will ensure that reliable, objective data on current commercial floriculture production and commercial nursery production are available to the public and the industry. Accurate industry statistics are crucial to obtaining research funding and government support on various issues.

Results from the Commercial Floriculture Production Survey are scheduled for release on April 2001. Results from the Commercial Nursery Production Survey are scheduled for release in the summer of 2001. These results will be an effective measure of America's floriculture and nursery industries, and will help measure the economic contribution of these industries to Tennessee and U.S. agriculture.

As with all surveys conducted by her organization, Ms. Kenerson stated, "Individual operation information is completely confidential by law. NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Service) safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes State and U.S. data only, ensuring that no individual operation or grower will be identified."

Commercial floriculture production and commercial nursery production statistics, hundreds of other commodity reports, and a full catalog of NASS products and services, are available on the NASS Homepage at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) For other information, e-mail [NASS@nass.usda.gov](mailto:NASS@nass.usda.gov) or call 1-800-727-9540. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 1-800-999-6779.

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